Justification and Narrative Background:

Last two decades of war has proved disastrous for all Afghans especially for Afghan women and children. The constant fighting in the country brought up many misfortunes affecting the economy, education and the standard of living of thousands of people in various parts of the country. Hundreds of thousands of people lost their lives in ten years of occupation of Afghanistan by the former Soviet Union and subsequent eruption of civil war in the country. The majority of the victims of war are widows and orphans leading miserable life under poor circumstances.
Thousands of Afghan women have migrated to Pakistan and are faced with serious problems, such as illiteracy, poor health conditions, lack of employment and other social services. These poor women have difficulty supporting themselves and their children. A large number of them are obliged to beg in the streets in order to find a mouthful piece of bread for survival of their children. As a result of poor economy and lack of professional skills, these women are compelled to beg in the streets for a living.

In order to help this group of poor Afghan vulnerable women, Sanayee Institute Of Education And Learning (SIEAL) took the initiative of implementing a TRoCAIRE funded vocational training and basic education project for 240 Afghan poor women in Peshawar, Pakistan from (February 8,1999 till February 18,2000). As a result of the implementation of the project, the acquired vocational skills have enabled these women to find employment and self-employment opportunities and a sustainable livelihood for their families.

This report gives information about the activities undertaken by SIEAL during the second phase of the implementation of the project from March1, 2000 till April30 2000.

Overall Aims and Objectives

- To provide vocational training (sewing and artificial flower making) and basic education to 240 vulnerable Afghan women

- To enable the poor Afghan women refugees to find employment and self-employment opportunities through the skills acquired through this project

- To provide each woman trainee with a sewing machine and sewing toolkit enabling them to start a small business of their own

- To provide the women trainees with secure source of family income.

- To save the poor Afghan women from begging.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PROJECT

- All the required materials of the project including sewing machines, sewing kits, stationary, refreshment etc have been provided.
- The first group of 40 vulnerable Afghan refugee women completed their vocational and educational training under this project on April 30,2000 and a new group of 40 women were selected for the project.
- 40 Sewing machines and necessary sewing toolkits, such as scissors and boxes of thread were distributed to the first group of women trainees after successful completion of the two- month training course.
- The first group women trainees were empowered to learn the basics of sewing and basic education under this project.
- All the activities of the project were constantly being supervised.

Vocational Training and Basic Education

Skilled female teachers and a female supervisor led the project's teaching and vocational



Distribution of sewing tools and machines to trainees

training. The project's activities continued smoothly. To teach the trainees effectively, the trainees were divided into two groups. Their teacher taught each group in a separate class. The classes were arranged in such a way that one class studied basic education while the

second class had vocational training. These classes started at 8:00 A.M. and finished at 12: 15 P.M. Refreshment (tea or milk with cookies or bread) was given to trainees during the break. The trainers had to attend the classes five days in a week.

Sewing course

- Initially, the women were taught the precautions, which were needed to be taken while using the sewing tools.
- Secondly, they were taught sewing principles including button sewing, stringing, using thimble to prevent injury to fingers, etc on pieces of cloth provided by the SIEAL office.

- The trainees learned the basics of sewing in ten days. Later, they were provided with 10



Trainees getting practical training in Sewing Class

sewing machines in order to work practically on them during the training.

- During the two-hour teaching sessions, the trainers were practically taught how to sew different kinds of collars, skirts, shirts, cutting and sewing of Shalwar Kameez (Afghani clothes), suits for children, and pants.

- At the end, the trainees' works were kept in files provided by the office for the final assessment.

- In the later stages, the exam sheets were prepared in advance. The supervisor, trainer and the controller of the concerned section observed the exams. In addition, the best work was exhibited in the board of the course encouraging the trainees for further creativity. Samples of the works done by the trainees were kept in records by the office.

Basic Education

During the education classes, the trainees learned basic education (including basic literacy, self -development, and environment protection subjects) which changed their present behavior to a better approach.



One of the trainees is presenting a topic in the Graduation Ceremony

To attain this goal, they were divided into two groups. Those who already knew the basic reading and writing were selected for the first group and those who were illiterate were chosen for the second group. Furthermore, they were taught in different classes with different education materials provided for them. The project's female supervisors evaluated the methods of teaching and training regularly. The project-teaching curriculum was prepared by SIEAL in consultation with the academic staff of SIEAL.

The students had also passed their exams at the end of the two- month course that was taken both orally and written.

Selection Criteria

The first group of the women trainees was selected according to the following selection criteria:

- The women who had no family income for running their livelihood
- The women who had no wealth or property of their own
- The women who suffered from lack of professional skills
- Those women who lost their family breadwinners
- The women aged between 25-50 years
- Only one member of a family was eligible for admission

Problems addressed

To support such poor women SIEAL took the initiative by providing vocational training and basic literacy courses in order to enable them to attain a sustainable livelihood for themselves and their children through this program.
The problems faced in the implementation of the project are as follows:

- The increasing number of the female applicants for the admission to the training program
- The allocated budget could hardly meet the project expenses.

SIEAL encountered the stated problems by consulting with the project staff about the selection of most eligible women and by increasing its own financial contribution to the project such as payment of gas bills, electricity charges, etc.

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Biographical Form of the Enrolled Women Trainee (Two samples)

Two-month Vocational Training Courses for Afghan Refugee women-Peshawar

Name of trainee	**Farida**
Father's name	**Mohammad Zahir**
Marital status	**married**
Group	**7**
Registration No	**9**
Spouse occupation	**peddler**
Present residential address	**Arbab Road -Peshawar City**
Permanent address	**Kabul_Afghanistan**
Age	**38**
Number of family members	**8 persons**
Name of family's guardian	**Ghulam Ali**

Brief description of the trainee's living condition

Ms.Farida is 38 years old Afghan woman who is currently living with her children, husband and her sister in Peshawar City. Previously, she used to live in Kabul City along with her family. Unfortunately, she lost her family members including her parents, brothers and sisters in a rocket attack in Kabul City. She led a miserable life in Kabul, so she was compelled to migrate to Pakistan. Her husband is a peddler who hardly can meet the economical needs of the family.

Farida aspires to improve her family's current economical conditions. In fact, she reckons the training a valuable source to meet her family 's income and by acquiring the skills in this training she hopes to attain a sustainable livelihood.

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Biographical Form of the Enrolled Women Trainees

Two-month Vocational Training Courses for Afghan Refugee women-Peshawar

Name of trainee	Roshan
Marital status	married
Group	8
Registration No	9A
Spouse occupation	jobless
permanent residential address	Nangarhar-Afghanistan
Present residential address	Gharib Abad-Peshawar
Age	40
Number of family members	6 persons

Brief description of the trainee's living condition

Roshan is a poor Afghan woman who is currently living in GharibAbad area of Peshawar. She has been in Pakistan for the past seven years .One of her sons was martyred while her husband was paralyzed during the rocket attacks in Kabul.

Roshan faces serious economic problems to support her family. She finds a small earning by washing clothes in various houses in the area. She finds the project vocational training program effective and hopes it provides her with the chance to attain a sustainable livelihood.

First Progress Report
Vocational Training for Afghan Refugee Women



Funding Organization

TRoCAIRE

Submitted by

Sanayee Institute of Education And Learning (SIEAL)

June 2000

First Progress Report

Project Summary Sheet

Project Name :Emergency Aid for Afghan Refugee Women

Project No : PAK00082

AGENCY No : B1796

Funding Organization : TRoCAIRE

Implementing Organization :Sanayee Institute Of Education And Learning (SIEAL)

G.P.O P.O.BOX #73
Peshawar Cantt
Bungalow No.F-10-A
Rahman Baba Road
University Town-Peshawar
E-mail: dalili@brain.net.pk

Project Duration : One year

Project Location : Peshawar City, Pakistan

Reporting period

(March1, 2000 till April 30, 2000)